



Madness on Masonic

Megillah Madness III, our very own adaptation of traditional Jewish history, is shaping up to be exactly as promised: the *very best* event of the Spring '85 Social Season. Planning is almost complete as we go to press, and the details are:

Who: Us and our friends
 What: Purim Celebration
 Where: San Francisco Medical Society,
 250 Masonic at Turk, S.F.
 When: Saturday, March 9, 8-12 p.m.
 Why: Fun!

The first highlight of the evening will be *The Pageant*, scheduled to begin at 8:30 p.m. (Jewish time?) This masterpiece revision of the Book of Esther has been scripted and choreographed, and is acted by lots of theatrical dilettantes (familiar to the shul if not the stage). No more details can be given at this time however—we wouldn't want to ruin *all* the surprises. Just remember that this is *not* the original Megillah, but a version like no other you've ever seen.

After the hoopla from the play subsides, there will be contests for the best mask, costume and hamentaschen. Trophies for 1st and 2nd place in each category will be ceremoniously presented. The parades, judging and tasting of the "bake-off" results are loosely scheduled for 10:30 p.m. "Bake-off" entrants should call the synagogue to pre-register, and then start baking. Bowl over the competition with 2 dozen of your finest.

Committee involvement in the game booths is evidenced by the Building Committee inviting you to "Knock Down the Tower of Babel"; the Ritual Committee, which will test your knowledge of Jewish trivia; or the dart throwing, coin toss, and photo booths. And, if ever you've felt pressure from our esteemed Treasurer to pay your dues on time, now is the time for revenge. David Stein will be available as a target for pie-throwing. So here's your

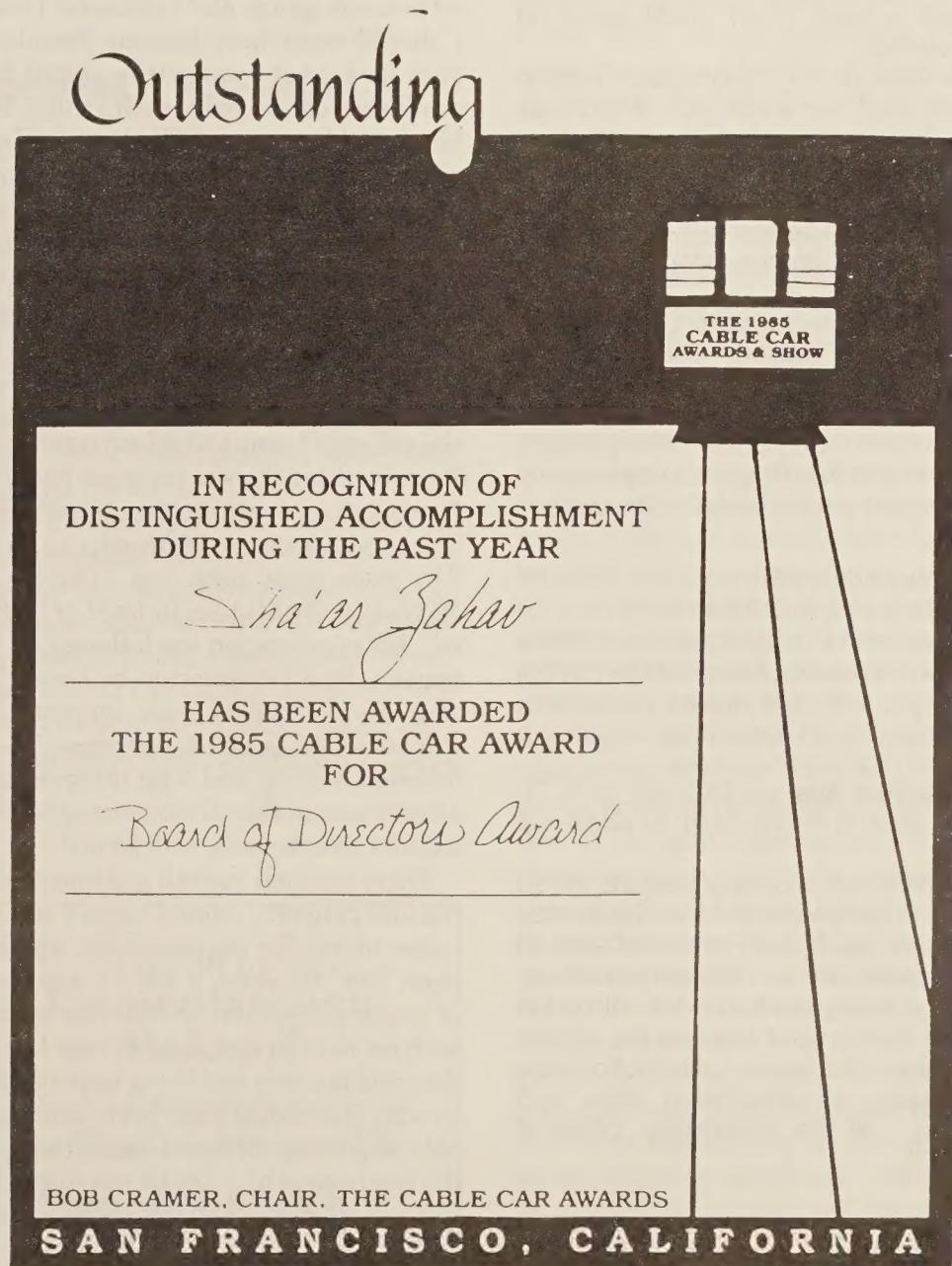
(Continued on page 3)

Awards, Awards

At the annual Cable Car Awards at the Japan Theater on February 2, Cheryl Orvis had the pleasure of accepting an award on the Congregation's behalf. A Board of Directors Award was presented to Sha'ar Zahav in recognition of our distinguished accomplishments during the past year. Stop by and see the plaque which is now hanging in the righthand passageway leading to the Oneg Room. Although we all can feel proud of our accomplishments,

it's wonderful to get recognition from the rest of the community. Thank you for this honor.

In January, at the GGBA's Annual Dinner, CSZ member Roger Gross was presented with the GGBA 1985 Distinguished Services Award. Roger is a former president of the GGBA and has been active in various community activities for several years. Congratulations Roger!



President's Column

Forward Archives

At long last, copies of all available back issues of *The Forward* are now in yearly binders in our fledgling library, on the second floor of the Synagogue. Members who would like to take a look at our past should contact Marilyn during office hours to arrange to check out a year or two at a time. Readers will get to trace the history of our congregation, the evolution of the newsletter and find out who's been around for ever.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll (editor); Bob Goldware, Stephanie Hannaford and Irene Ogus (editorial and production); Allan Berenstein, Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alita Rosenfeld (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by En Character.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

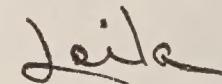
My mother was a Hadassah maven, *takeh!* She was a founding member of four chapters, a life member, and had a testimonial dinner given in her honor. All this by the time I was ten years old. Needless to say, I was thoroughly intimidated by her (no California "psychobabble" please). Hadassah became a symbol of unattainable—and, because I was a spoiled-rotten brat, unwanted—achievement. Why should a little "baby-dyke" like me aspire to get dressed up (with matching hat, gloves, shoes and purse) and go off to meetings and "functions?" That prejudice, and make no mistake, prejudice it was, stayed with me for years. I am 47 years old and have just had my first contact with the wonderful women of Hadassah.

It happened like this. One of our members, who is also active in Hadassah, approached me several months ago and asked that I, as President of CSZ, address a Hadassah group. Me? Hadassah? I knew I should never have become President. Now look what I was getting into! I had never even conceived of such a thing. But I had an obligation to CSZ, didn't I? There were things a president needed to do, and not all of them were appealing. This was surely one of those. So I swallowed hard and said "yes." When I told Catherine about it, she insisted, wonderful spouse that she is, on accompanying me for "moral support." More likely, I thought, to whip out the smelling salts if I fainted, or the valium if I panicked. Moral support being something there is never too much of, I got another couple, our dear friends Irene Ogus and Rosalinda del Moral, to join us. The study group topic was "The Jewish Woman in the Middle: Isolated or Fulfilled." My presentation was followed, at my request, by a presentation by Irene. We were both received with interest, enthusiasm and genuine openness. There followed a lively and long question and answer session that demonstrated beyond a doubt that we were with family!

There was such warmth and humor, caring and concern, mutual respect and genuine liking. For me personally, who has been "out" for years, it was a coming out of major proportion. It was like talking with my mother and aunts in ways I never dreamed possible and being responded to in ways that would have been unimaginable 30 years ago. It was wonderful and productive outreach... and it was so much a two-way operation. I had thought we would

be performing outreach to Hadassah. And we were. What I hadn't bargained for was how much outreach Hadassah was doing to us. They are a wonderful group of women with whom I will not be losing contact. And I hope we will be seeing some of them at our services, as we will be attending theirs. This is too good not to keep hold of. When a 70-year old Hadassah member said to Irene, "You were so clever to get yourself a Latin lover!" we knew we had latched onto something great!

Shalom,



Election Committee News

The Election Committee is pleased to nominate the following slate of candidates for the 1985-86 Officers and Va'ad:

President: Don Albert
Vice President: Leslie Bergson
Recorder: Richard Inlander
Treasurer: (No nomination)

Vaad (Board of Directors) on which there will be 5 vacancies, for 2 year terms:

Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Shirley Liberman
Irene Ogus
Mike Rankin
Susan Unger

As announced in the last issue of *The Forward*, petition candidates may submit petitions to the Election Committee through March 20, 1985. Candidate guidelines are posted in the Oneg Room at the Synagogue.

A mailing will be sent to all members in late March with information regarding the candidates, elections and absentee ballots. If you have any questions in the interim, please contact any member of the Committee.

Jonathan Funk, Chair
Allan Berenstein
Allan Gold
Alita Rosenfeld
Sharyn Saslafsky

A Purim "Message" from your Ritual Committee

As is widely known, Purim is the most solemn holiday in the Jewish year, a time when we somberly gather to take stock of the misdeeds of all the people we know. It is a time to open the doors of our souls and defrost our spiritual refrigerators; it is a time to afflict our souls, and to refrain from any pleasures too noisy or too sticky to escape notice by the rest of the congregation. It is a time to plan how the coming year can increase our personhood, make us more politically correct, and reduce our serum cholesterol.

In keeping with the spirit of thinking ahead that is this holiday's most salient gravitation, your Ritual Committee has used this time of year to plan the upcoming ritual calendar. As usual, we have a full, almost bewildering variety of events coming up:

April 2 and 3, 1985, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Pre-passover search for chumetz at Daniel Chesir's apartment.

April 5, 1985 - Passover seder, Holiday Inn. After examination of Matzoh balls preserved from previous seders, committee has determined to combine Passover and Yom Kippur observances.

May 24, 1985 - Sh'vuot celebration. Dairy food fight at Jonathan Funk's house.

July 15, 1985 - Mechitzah dedication. Men to sit behind new curtained wall in sanctuary. One usher for each 20 persons will insure that no unsafe worship practices are engaged in.

July 28, 1985 - Tisha b'Av. Ritual's archaeological subcommittee discovers that Temple was not destroyed, just converted to condos. Potluck fast—don't bring your favorite food.

September 15, 1985 - Rosh Hashanah Eve. Because of space problems, services to be held at the Cow Palace. Presence of Grand National Rodeo could be a problem, but male members of the committee see it outweighed by increased attendance at oneg of men in chaps.

September 16, 1985 - Rosh Hashanah. Tashlich service: last year's officers are cast off the Golden Gate Bridge, while shofar is sounded.

September 24, 1985 - Kol Nidre. To save time, instead of traditional recitation of group confessional, committee will distribute a "Vidui Booklet", listing sins committed by each member of the synagogue during the past year.

September 29, 1985 - Succot. Because of lack of outside space to build succah, sanctuary roof to be removed, replaced with palm fronds; palm fronds to be replaced by levelors.

October 25, 1985 - Grateful congregation sends ritual committee on Caribbean cruise.

December 8, 1985 - Chanukah. At candlelighting ceremony, Aunt Yente's sheitl catches fire. Congregation offers humorous advice on how to put it out.

January 25, 1986 - Tu b'Shvat. Steve Greenberg leads shopping trip to Macy's Men's Store to locate items with "tree" theme.

February 14, 1986 - Garry Koenigsberg writes another stupid Purim article.

Talk About the Future

Another Sha'ar Zahav tradition was created on Saturday, January 26th. That day a varied and vocal group of congregants met after morning services to discuss a number of issues important to the development of our synagogue.

To best maintain love and harmony amongst the differing opinions (and there were many), we asked Susan Coleson to act as facilitator. Susan has provided her services at previous Advances and knows many congregants from her past work with us. She has a clear and insightful way of helping us to develop those truths that will be useful as we create new policies.

Discussion centered on three areas—the first being plans for remodeling the second floor of the Synagogue. Besides rabbinic and administrative offices, what else do we want upstairs? What would be the least expensive, most energy efficient aesthetic options? What about classrooms, library space, meeting and childcare space? How do we make it accessible to those unable to climb stairs? There were many ideas exchanged which were sent to the Building Committee for further review.

Next, we began to explore the need for different categories of membership. Do we need a family member category? How does that category affect voting privileges? What is the role of children in this congregation? How do we acknowledge their presence and participation? How do the different categories influence the amount and payment of dues? This is an issue currently under study by the Bylaws Committee and its recommendation will be presented to the Va'ad and then again at the May Congregational Meeting.

The final issue under discussion was our relationship to the community especially regarding those benefits that we give and receive. Much of our tradition as a synagogue, as well as our image of ourselves, is that of an open organization willing to share resources with the community around us. How does this influence and affect our members? Should only a few people be responsible for providing to the many? To whom are we responsible? What repercussions would we face if we created greater distinctions between members and non-members? Can we minimize them and how? If we maintain an open posture, can we get more non-members to take a greater role in supporting the synagogue's activities?

(Continued on page 4)

Show off in the **Hamentaschen Bakeoff**

Bring 2 dozen of your finest
to Megillah Madness III

Saturday, March 9

Support A Fund — Any Fund

Sha'ar Zahav's health is founded on a good spiritual and fiscal base. The Finance Committee wishes to remind all members and friends of the Congregation of the various funds that are available for your support. Any reason is a good reason for contributions: a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, simcha, etc., etc. You may specify which fund your gift is to be dedicated to. Our funds are:

The General Fund: underwrite the ongoing activities and committee programs of the Congregation.

The Building Fund: mortgage payments and building improvements.

The Education Fund: cover the costs of teachers for classes, books and learning materials, film programs, lecturer stipends, etc.

The Harvey Milk Social Action Fund: contributions to social causes that the

Synagogue wishes to lend support to—for example, aid to the Falashas, Soviet Jewry, National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

The Library Fund: development of a reference library for our Congregation.

The Phooey on AIDS Fund: assistance of members and friends diagnosed with AIDS and is also used to support AIDS-related educational and humanitarian projects in our community.

The Prayer Book Fund: underwrite the costs of writing, revising and publishing our prayerbooks.

The Torah Fund: purchase of a new torah and adornments for our Congregation.

Contributions are acknowledged by letter and in *The Forward*, and the person being honored also receives a card announcing the gift. All donations to Sha'ar Zahav are tax deductible.

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of January, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

January 4—The Va'ad, in honor of the Congregation
January 11—The Membership Committee, in honor of all the new members of the Congregation

January 18—The Women's Havurah, in honor of the Congregation

January 25—Friends of Jerry Sacks, as a thank you for all his work for the Brotherhood, and so he'll remember us in Los Angeles

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Peter Abinanti at 441-0276 or at an Oneg or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Gay? Lesbian?
Jewish?
Not a member of
Sha'ar Zahav?

A SCHANDE!

Calendar for 5745

April 1985

Fri	5	Passover
Sat	6	Congregational Seder
Mon	8	Va'ad Meeting
Fri	12	Yom HaShoah Service
Thu	18	Yom HaShoah
Wed	24	Yom HaZikaron
Thu	25	Yom Ha'Atzmaut

May 1985

Sun	5	Congregational Meeting Election of Officers and 4 Va'ad Members
Thu	9	Lag Ba'Omer
Mon	13	Va'ad Meeting
Sat	25	Erev Shavuot Service

June 1985

Thu 6-Sun 9	9th Int'l Conference of Gay & Lesbian Jews, Washington, D.C.
Mon 10	Va'ad Meeting
Sun 23	Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade
Fri 28-Sun 30	Leadership Advance

July 1985

Mon 8	Va'ad Meeting
Sun 28	Tisha B'Av

August 1985

Mon 12	Va'ad Meeting
Sun 18	Castro Street Fair

September 1985

Mon 16	Rosh Hashanah 5746
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Future

(Continued from page 3)

The Shabbaton/Mini-Advance was quite a successful event in that it was the first opportunity for all members of the Congregation to participate in the examination of several major issues that are part and parcel of the growing pains of a young, dynamic synagogue like Sha'ar Zahav. Although no policies were defined, no definitive answers yet found, we took steps that did indeed bring us closer to the answers and the policies that will eventually be developed. And when we have answered these questions, we'll get to grapple with the new ones that arise.

So, don't be shy. Take opportunities to provide our leaders and committees with input about the issues that face our synagogue. That way, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will continue to reflect the interests and personalities of all of us.

Va'ad Report

The February Va'ad meeting was held on the 11th at the Synagogue. The meeting was chaired by President Leila Raim, who thanked Don Albert for handling matters while she was on vacation in January. In her report, Leila nominated Mike Rankin as CSZ's candidate for the national UAHC Board of Trustees. The January Mini-Advance/Shabbaton was discussed and evaluated as a precedent. While the discussions were very productive, concern was expressed at the low turnout of "non-machers."

Mike reported on the plans for the UAHC National Biennial in Los Angeles next fall and the panel on homosexuality to be presented at that conference. The Board heard reports on the upcoming Purim party and discussed our participation in the Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day. A committee needs to be formed as soon as possible, since we may need a new booth and banner this year. By consensus, the Board decided to keep the flags in the Oneg room.

Cheryl Orvis presented the Va'ad with the Board of Directors Award which she had accepted on Sha'ar Zahav's behalf at the Cable Car Awards Dinner. We received one of three such awards given and were commended for successfully creating all that we've created (a growing congregation, meaningful outreach in our community, a building) in a short seven years.

The Treasurer's Report included a report on the discussion of dues structures which took place at the UAHC President's Council held at our shul earlier in the month. The consensus at the meeting was that a dues structure such as ours is woefully inadequate to meet the needs of a growing congregation. The burden of supporting the Congregation falls on a few generous members since so many of our members pledge a low amount—a situation which could well hurt us in the long run. The Finance Committee will be addressing this issue in coming months.

In other reports, Eric Keitel, our representative to the World Congress, reported on activities in the past six months. The next meeting of the Congress is in Washington, D.C. in June. Among the items under consideration is the development of a national Speaker's Bureau. Eric also reported on the success of the regional conference held in the Northeast last year. He suggested that we consider a West Coast conference for 1986.

Committee Reports

The Building Committee presented an outline of possible specifications for renovating the second floor. This will be sent out for bids, after which the Va'ad will evaluate the costs involved. A preliminary proposal was presented for a memorial board/book for Sha'ar Zahav. The Va'ad asked the Committee do to further research on the needs and desires of the Congregation. The Fine Arts Advisory Panel for gifts and commemorations had not yet been formed; Leila still invites interested parties to contact her.

At the March Va'ad meeting, the Bylaws Committee will have some formal proposals to be approved for the May Congregational Meeting. Other issues are being developed for consideration at the November meeting. Rabbi Search reported that due to a change in our UAHC rating, we will now be able to interview members of the Union's graduating class. Education reported on the Richard Beatty lecture;

response to the Book Circle has been slow, but will be able to begin meeting February 19, with seven members to date.

Newsletter reported that bound past issues of *The Jewish Gaily Forward* are now available in the library. Ritual recently held an all-day workshop which generated several proposals which the Va'ad will be considering in March. They will work with the World Congress to see if any new congregations can use our old machzors.

Membership presented the names of two new members for approval—welcome to our newest members. Social Action has 11 volunteers so far to participate in the JCF Super Sunday Telethon at the end of the month.

Finally, the Va'ad retired into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

(And all this without Mark Mendelow, our trusty Recorder, who was down with the flu.)

—Marilyn Hertzberg
Acting Recorder

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

For the General Fund—

Gladys and Howard Kraus, with the message, "The great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving." Best wishes for your continued endeavors."

Deborah Udin and Barbara Paul

Leslie Bergson, in memory of David Shaber's brother Sam

Krag Rjirdaal

Steve Elman, in honor of Aaron Cooper's birthday

For the AIDS Fund—

Allan, Justin and Matt Berenstein, in memory of Phil Rubin and A.J. Berenstein, Allan's grandfather on his yahrzeit

For the Torah Fund—

Joe Pomper, in honor of Bob Mackey's Bar Mitzvah

Ben Schalit, in memory of his grandparents, Heinrich and Hilda Schalit

For the Harvey Milk (Social Action) Fund—

Steve Elman, in honor of Mike Rankin's birthday

For the Building Fund—

Steve Elman, in honor of Neil Hart's birthday

Gift to the Congregation—

A set of customized CSZ labels to be used as bookplates, given by **En Character**—typesetters for *The Forward*, in celebration of the New Year

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Bikur Cholim

Coming Home

Two affiliated groups have recently come to our attention for their good work in providing home care for AIDS patients in the city: AIDS Home Care and Hospice Program and its auxiliary support group, Coming Home. The Hospice is a subsidiary of Visiting Nurses Association of San Francisco and provides the AIDS patient at home with nursing and social work visits, home health aide and homemaker assistance, and volunteer support. The assistance is provided by the Hospice's paid professionals and volunteer staff and also by volunteers working through the Gay-organized auxiliary support group, Coming Home.

Although most of the specifically medical services are funded, contributions are needed to cover the costs of other services, particularly home attendant care. Contributions should be directed to The AIDS Home Care and Hospice Program, 225-30th Street, SF, 94131.

Hospice and Coming Home encourage volunteers to join them in their task of providing an alternative to extended hospital care for AIDS patients—both health care professionals and laypersons are welcome.

For more information on Hospice, call 285-5619; for information on Coming Home, call 285-5622 and ask for Claude Gadbois, or any other Coming Home volunteer on duty. Please feel free to speak to me as well for information about these worthwhile programs.

—Ben Marcus, Chair
Bikur Cholim Committee

Congregational Seder

Our annual second night congregational seder will be held on Saturday, April 6, at Golden Gateway Holiday Inn (Van Ness Avenue between Pine and California Streets). This event is always a highlight of our Synagogue's year.

New recipes are being researched to provide you with the best in kosher-style and vegetarian meals. The planning committee is consulting with the catering staff at the hotel developing the menu and adapting traditional recipes. Also, kosher dinners, provided by the Kosher Nutrition Project, will be available upon request.

The Ritual Committee will be leading a reading of CSZ's Hagadah, with the participation of many members of our Congregation. Members, friends and relatives are all invited to attend this joyous event.

Remember

to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our yahrzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

Jewish Men's Conference

A one-day Jewish Men's Conference will be held on Sunday, March 10, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at San Francisco Hillel, 33 Banbury Drive. Organized around the theme "Exploring Our Identities as Jewish Men," the conference will feature morning and afternoon sessions of 6 workshops each, with a kosher, vegetarian lunch. Workshop topics include gay and straight Jewish men—our relationships as Jews; confronting Jewish male stereotypes in ourselves; Jewish men and professional identity, initiation rites, spirituality, political activism and reaching out to the community.

The cost of registration is \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Registration forms are available at the Synagogue or through S.F. Hillel, 33 Banbury Drive, SF 94132. For more information, contact Robert Tufel at 333-4922.

in the life of the extended family that is Sha'ar Zahav.

Make your reservations now using the accompanying form. The deadline for reservations is Monday, April 1. Tickets are the same cost as last year: \$25.00 for members, \$30.00 for non-members and \$18.50 for children. Some financial subsidies are available (contact our Treasurer, David Stein, at 431-7541). We also welcome contributions to cover these subsidies. All tickets will be held for pickup at the door.

Plan on joining us at our Congregational Seder on April 6. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., and the Seder itself will start at 6:30. Individual seating is on a first come basis. Tables of eight may be reserved. For more information, please contact Marilyn in the Synagogue office.

Ritual Calendar

Friday, March 1

Shabbat Zachor

Parshah: Tetzaaveh, Ex 27:20-30:10

Special Parshah: Deut. 25:17-19

Special Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2-24

Leslie Bergson, Services

Wednesday, March 6

Erev Purim

Purim Ma'ariv Services and Megillah Reading, 7:30 p.m.

Ritual Committee and Friends, Services

Friday, March 8

Parshah: Ki Tissa, Ex. 30:1-34:35

Haftarah: I Kings 18:1-39

Paul Cohen, Services

Friday, March 15

Shabbat Parah

Parshah: Va Yakhel/P'kudei, Ex. 35:1-40:38

Special Parshah: Num. 19:1-22

Special Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38

Mike Rankin, Services

Friday, March 22

Rosh Hodesh

Shabbat ha-Hodesh

Parshah: Va-Yikra, Lev. 1:1-5:26

Special Parshot: Num. 28:9-15, Ex. 12:1-20

Special Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

Garry Koenigsberg, Services

The Haftarah will be read.

Friday, March 29

Shabbat ha-Gadol

Parshah: Tzav, Lev. 6:1-8:36

Special Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24

Leslie Bergson, Services

Saturday, March 30

Saturday Morning Services,

10:30 a.m.

Daniel Chesir, Services

April Preview

Friday, April 5

First Seder Night

Special Parshah: Ex. 12:21-51, Num. 28:19-25

Special Haftarah: Joshua, 5:2-6:1 Early Service, 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 6

Second Seder Night

Congregation Seder, 6 p.m.

Holiday Inn

Friday night services begin at 8:15 in the sanctuary of our synagogue, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

MARCH

אדר-ניסן

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					8 Adar	1 9 2
1	3 11	4 12	5 13	6 14	7 15	8 16 9
	Torah Study 7-10pm	Book Circle 7:30pm	Purim Service 7:30pm	Finance Comm. 6pm 1804 Leavenworth		Purim, The Pageant 8pm 350 Masonic
17	10 18	11 19	12 20	13 21	14 22	15 23 16
Jewish Men's Conf. SFSU Hillel Newsletter Deadline	Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Torah Study 7-10pm		Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am	Newsletter Comm. 130-E Landers	Father P. Sammons (post-Oneg)	
24	17 25	18 26	19 27	20 28	21 29	22 1 Nisan 23
Women's Havurah Magnes Museum Trip Torah Reading Class 5-6:30pm		Book Circle 7:30pm				Rosh Chodesh
2	24 3	25 4	26 5	27 6	28 7	29 8 30
Workshop: Hebrew Calligraphy 1-4 Torah Reading Class 5-6:30pm		East Bay Lunch Group, Lenny 451-1850	Education Comm. 7:30pm	Ritual Co. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, Fl.2 Newsletter Mailing 7:30pm 11 Grandview Terr.		Morning Service 10:30am
9	31					
Torah Reading Class 5-6:30pm						

March Yahrzeits

2 Fannie Leiss, Mother of Walt Leiss
 5 (12 Adar) Philip L. Kirsch, Father of Paul Cohen
 9 (16 Adar) Joseph Cohen, Father of Paul Cohen
 9 (16 Adar) Mollie Podgur, Mother of Hal Podgur
 10 (17 Adar) Helen Pechter, Mother of Bernard Pechter
 10 (17 Adar) Walter Solomon, Grandfather of Elliott Pechter
 11 Ernest Von Koehe, Grandfather of Benjamin Schalit
 11 Hannah Goodman, Aunt of Eric Keitel
 16 Marguerite Kotch, Mother of David Kotch

March Birthdays!

2 Don Gordon
 5 Ed Pollock
 6 Naomi Barran
 9 James Dobkins
 10 Dana Vinicoff
 11 Jessie Lee Ap'Neva
 14 Carol Fiul
 19 David Kotch
 19 Rachel Wahba
 21 Larry Cohen
 23 Susan Ganz
 24 Gwen Schwartz
 29 Bart Benderoff
 29 Bob Guterman
 29 Hal Parker
 30 Susan Greenspan
 31 Barbara Collier

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Purim is coming up, and I want to fulfill my obligation to get so drunk I can't tell the difference between Mordechai and Esther. But I've been trying to cut down, lately. How can I fulfill the commandment without going off the wagon?

Uncertain on Ulloa

Dear Uncertain,

Every year, around Purim, Aunt Yente finds herself wishing that some of her beloved readers would pay attention to just one other commandment with the same sacred fervor they bring to the idea of merrymaking on Purim. Is it not written, Hast thou fulfilled every other commandment? Go then, and get drunk on Purim. But has thou not obeyed every other commandment? So shut up about this one already. (So maybe it wasn't written. It is now.)

Also, you should realize that the precise ruling of the Talmud is not about distinguishing between Mordechai and Esther; at our congregation's Purim, this can be hard enough even without drinking. What the Talmud says is, "Each person is obligated to mellow themself on Purim until they can no longer tell the difference between 'Curse Haman' and 'Bless Mordechai.'"

You should notice that the Talmud says "mellow", not "drunk". There are no other ways you can mellow yourself without drinking? (And Aunt Yente isn't talking about all that *naarishkeit* in plastic baggies that some of you try to persuade her is freeze-dried charoses. Aunt Yente wasn't born yesterday.) You can't get mellow from laughing with friends, from dressing funny, from playing games, from exulting in the defeat of the oppressor? You can't get mellow from eating? (What kind of Sha'ar Zahavnik are you?) You sit down and eat six or seven portions of Aunt Yente's Hamen-tash Surprise (a whole gefülfte fish in each one!) and we'll see if you're not mellow (or at least surprised). Alcohol is a poor substitute for food, as far as your Aunt Yente is concerned—except in the case of aftershave, and even then you could always use a little borscht.

Still, Aunt Yente doesn't mean you should eat yourself into a stupor any more than you should drink yourself into one. As the Lubavitcher Rebbe used to say, the parameters of this phenomenon must be viewed in context. Our people developed

the tradition of excess on Purim because so much of the time we had to walk in a very narrow place. Jews of the past consistently had to worry about pogroms and every other kind of physical and moral violence. Even during our holidays we couldn't be safe. In some traditions, only white wine was served at the seder, because otherwise we would have been accused of drinking human blood!

Given all this, to keep from going mishuga for real, we had to have at least one day a year when the barriers came down; a day when we were the victors and the other side was losers, a day when we could let go—let go so much, according to the Talmud, that we didn't even have to remember the religious point of the festival.

Thank God, things are better for us, and both gay people and Jews here do not live in the fear that other times and places have known. So maybe we need a little less excess than our parents did. But do we still need Purim? Oy, do we need Purim! When the government pushes a different religion by displaying it in public buildings and by claiming that it tells them how to run the country, shouldn't a Jew worry? (Maybe not just Jews, but that's another column.) Every day some gay people walk around being careful, always checking themselves so that they shouldn't look like gay people; don't they need a time to let go? A student or a poet has to spend eight hours a day pretending to be a sales clerk or a lawyer; can't they have some time off for silly behavior?

So, kinderlach, on Purim you should let go. Have the best time you can. If a glass of wine or two helps, so have some, *gezunte heit* (although in this case, of course, you will not drive; remember Y-MAPS is watching); but there are all sorts of different ways of having a good time. If you look for Aunt Yente at the Purim party, she will be doing all of them.

Aunt Yente

P.S. You were wondering? Yiddishe Mamas Against Purim Shikkes.

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of *The Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in *The Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All material © 1985 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Ritual Committee Holds Annual All-Day Meeting

Ritual Committee held its annual all-day (well, five hours) meeting on February 9th at the Fort Mason Conference Center. Present were Leslie Bergson, Eric Keitel, Jon Funk, Terry Rothchild, Garry Koenigsberg, Avi Lapovsky, Steve Greenberg and Daniel Chesir. Unable to attend this meeting were Susan Unger, Mike Rankin and Leila Raim. Above the tables covered with nacho chips, sandwiches and cookies (you didn't think we could go five hours without eating, did you?) rose some ideas. We reviewed our policy on funeral and memorial services, decided to compile a reference list of rabbis and other Jewish professionals willing to provide spiritual counseling for the terminally ill, examined our internal process of choosing leaders for major services, discussed proposed liturgy projects, including a new Passover Haggadah and the possibility of a second edition of our Friday night prayerbook, and talked about possibilities for future leadership of the committee.

Although we meet for this length of time only once a year, our discussion and evaluation process is continuous (and interminable). We review each service at our monthly meetings. If you have any comments, criticisms or wild raves about any particular service, just tell a member of Ritual Committee (listed above) and know that it will be included at our next meeting.

—Leslie Bergson, Chair
Ritual Committee

President's Council Meets

On Sunday, February 3, Sha'ar Zahav hosted the Northern California UAHC President's Council at our shul. This is a quarterly meeting of the presidents, financial officers and administrators of area UAHC congregations. The 20 some people attending Sunday morning discussed the upcoming Regional Biennial in San Mateo and the issues facing the various congregations. Leila reports being continually amazed that as much as Sha'ar Zahav is different from other congregations, so it's also the same—we face many of the same issues and problems.

Women's Havurah News

The Women's Havurah invites all the women of the Congregation to join us on Sunday, March 17 for a trip to the Magnes Museum in Berkeley. After we've satisfied our cultural appetites at the museum's new exhibit on the Cyprus detention camps and the museum's fascinating international collection of Judaica...we'll turn our attentions to more physical appetites and go out for a Berkeley brunch.

While we're on the subject of food—and aren't we always—we had great fun at our Shabbat Dinner in January. Thanks to Betty, Marion, Diana, Joyce, Susan, Marilyn and everyone else who helped, and to everyone who came and enjoyed.

So...for the future...stay tuned for a post-Pesach Blood Drive and other "goodies" to come. In the meantime, we want *your* ideas and energy for planning and pulling off these activities. Please give me a call at 863-8796 or call Marilyn at the office to find out how you can join in.

—Allyce Kimerling
Chair, Women's Havurah

Torah Readers Class

The Ritual Committee is offering a class in Torah cantillation to train future CSZ Torah readers. Steve Greenberg will teach the class on six consecutive Sundays beginning March 17, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. (meeting time is negotiable). Enrollment is limited to eight members in good standing who can read Hebrew. A good singing voice is not required. The tuition is your commitment to do at least two Torah readings at Sha'ar Zahav during the year following the class. To enroll or ask questions, contact Steve at 864-5381.

Seder Needs Participants

The Ritual Committee is looking for members of the Congregation who would like to take a reading part in the congregational Passover seder on Saturday, April 6th.

As we will need some time to organize the participants, please let us know if you are interested by March 22nd, by calling Leslie at 552-0256 or leaving a message with Marilyn in the Synagogue office.

Congregational Seder

Golden Gateway Holiday Inn
Saturday, April 6
6:00 p.m.

Deadline for reservations
is April 1

Schmate

One of the more topical Jewish publications in the Bay Area is *Schmate*, a journal of progressive Jewish thought. A background statement from its editors includes the following:

"The essential purpose of *Schmate* is to provide a genuinely independent forum for those currents within Jewish life that are unrepresented, underrepresented, or misrepresented in the mainstream Jewish media. At the same time it attempts to assert a proudly Jewish presence usually lacking in most other progressive periodicals. The magazine tries to avoid publishing material unless it has something to add to previous discussions of the subject or unless the material is not generally available to most folks.

"*Schmate* is not supported by any institutions or angels. It exists entirely on subscriptions, bookstore sales, occasional donations, and a rare paid ad. If you believe that there should be an alternative voice for and of the Jewish people, that public discussion concerning Israel should be broadened, that the concerns of lesbians

and gay men should be put on a par with all other Jews, that the history of Jewish resistance to oppression should be honored, that while celebrating our proud, ancient history we can forge a just, meaningful Jewish life which is relevant today, then *Schmate* is for you. Your subscriptions and donations are needed and welcome."

Each issue generally is put together with a specific focus: past issues have been edited around the Holocaust, Jewish resistance, poetry, Nicaragua, Israel, humor and women, gay men and lesbians.

In March, a special double issue of *Schmate* will focus on the social and political right in the U.S. The editors promise that this issue will break through the usual rhetoric to present an understanding of the philosophy, organizations, personalities, financing, power and divisions associated with the Right. This special issue is available for \$4 from *Schmate*, Box 4228, Berkeley, CA 94704. It looks terrific, so check it out. Back issues are also available. For further information, write—or call Steve Fankuchen at 428-1536.

Attorney

David R. Gellman (415) 621-2966

- Contracts & Leases
- Estate Planning & Wills

- Real Estate
- Business Law & Litigation

Reasonable Fees
Evening &
Weekend
Appointments



45 Franklin St.
San Francisco, Ca.
94102

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב



220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, California 94114
(415) 861-6932

MEMBER, UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

Officers:

President, Leila Raim
Vice President, Don Albert
Treasurer, David Stein
Recorder, Mark Mendelow

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Caselli at Danvers, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. – check calendar for each month.

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Allan Berenstein
Leslie Bergson
Alex Ingersoll
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Ron Lezell
Cheryl Orvis
Jerry Rosenstein
Sharyn Saslafsky

Administrator:

Marilyn Hertzberg
The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency situation, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Committee Chairs:

Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, David Gass
Education, by committee
Finance, Tom Rothgiesser
Membership, Allan Berenstein
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Peter Abinanti
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper and
Leila Raim
Ritual, Leslie Bergson
Social Action, Ron Lezell
Women's Chavurah, Allyce
Kimerling
Coordinator of Social Activities,
Judah Katz

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Talk About Town

Members of Sha'ar Zahav were panelists at a February 8 Berkeley Hillel Conference. Representing CSZ were Allan Gold, Irene Ogus and Mike Rankin, who were joined by Danny Kent from Ahavat Shalom and Pat Warner from the Reconstructionist Havurah. Panelists discussed the position of the various groupings within Judaism and recounted personal "coming out" experiences. Our members report that the audience of about 75 was very receptive to the presentation and that a good general discussion followed.

Each month many of our officers and other congregants speak before various groups in the community. See this month's President's Column for Leila's report on another such event. This month, on March 3, Leila and Mike Rankin will speak about the Congregation to the adult education group and confirmation class at the Temple Emanu-El, and on March 10, Mike will speak at the Jewish Men's Conference and will chair a panel on relationships between gay and non-gay Jewish men.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained two new members in February. A warm welcome to both members, including:

Jay Ladin

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Classified Ads

BEGINNING INVESTMENT WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN: Sat., March 16, 1-4 pm. Topics: mutual funds, money markets, C.D.'s and more! \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. 587-7210.

HOUSE FOR RENT: Charming North Oakland house, available May 1. Prefer couple or 2 adults. 2 or 3 bedrooms, oak floors, antique brass chandeliers, living room w/fireplace, kitchen w/dining nook, one bath, washer/dryer, burglar alarm, gardens in front & back (fenced in), sundeck, separate backyard studio/office. NO PETS, NO SMOKING. Children ok. \$1200/mo, lease, 1st & last plus one mo. security. Call 658-4936.

Social Action

AIDS Food Drive

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation has repeatedly expressed its appreciation of our congregation's strong participation in its food drive. We have been making almost weekly deliveries to the Foundation office for use in its residence program. Help us keep filling the collection baskets located in the Oneg Room. What's needed are dry or canned foods, household items and toiletries. If you bring just an item or two each week to Friday night services, it will help immensely.

Vigil for Soviet Jewry

Sha'ar Zahav is continuing to work with the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry to maintain a protest vigil in front of the Soviet Consulate at Green and Baker. Our time slot is always the second Wednesday of the month, so this month we're on for Wednesday, March 13 from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Placards are provided.

—Ron Lezell, Chair
Social Action Committee

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
CONGREGATIONAL SEDER
RESERVATION FORM
Saturday, April 6, 6 p.m.
Golden Gateway Holiday Inn
(Van Ness and Pine)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Please reserve the following number of places for:

Members (at \$25.00 each)
 Non-members (at \$30.00 each)
 Children (at \$18.50 each)
as follows (indicate number of each):

Kosher-style meals
 Kosher Nutrition Project meals
 Vegetarian meals

In addition, I wish to donate \$_____ toward Seder subsidies.

I request that signing for the hearing impaired be provided.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Please charge \$_____ to my Visa or MasterCard as follows:

Visa # _____ Exp. _____

MC # _____ Exp. _____

MC Interbank # (4 digits) _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: Congregational Seder
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, CA 94114

All reservation forms must be received by Monday, April 1.

Tickets will be held at the door under the name provided above.

